

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02
TRSE-00 /079 W

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O R 281042Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6169
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 CAPE TOWN 0878

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR SF US WA RH
SUBJ: SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT DEBATE ON VIENNA TALKS

REF: CAPE TOWN 0876

1. SUMMARY: SPECIAL TWO AND A HALF HOUR PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE
MAY 27 ON VIENNA TALK YIELDED FEW SURPRISES. PRIME MINISTER
VORSTER PRESENTED HOUSE WITH LARGELY FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF HIS
DISCUSSIONS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. HE PLAYED HEAVILY
ON THEMES THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO INTERNATIONAL
PRESSURE AND THAT COMMUNIST THREAT IN AFRICA WAS INCREASING.
HE CALLED FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HIS AND U.S.
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POSITIONS FACT THAT U.S. INSISTED ON ERRONEOUSLY
EQUATING AMERICAN NEGRO WITH SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK. HE
ALSO REPORTED GROWING SPIRIT OF CONSERVATISM AMONG
YOUNG PEOPLE OF WORLD. ON NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA,
VORSTER REPEATED PREVIOUSLY STATED POSITIONS AND ADDED
LITTLE NEW INFORMATION. REMAINDER OF DEBATE INCLUDED
SPEECHES BY OPPOSITION LEADERS AND BY FOREIGN MINISTER

BOTHA. BOTHA ATTACKED PERCEIVED U.S. SELECTIVE MORALITY AND DOUBLE STANDARD. END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER USED OCCASION OF SPECIAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE AFTERNOON MAY 27 TO INFORM NATION IN LARGELY FACTUAL TERMS OF RESULTS OF HIS TALKS WITH VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. VORSTER STRESSED THAT VIENNA MEETING HAD NOT BEEN CONFRONTATION AND THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION IN FUTURE. IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THERE HAD BEEN TOO LITTLE TIME AT VIENNA TO DISCUSS SOUTH AFRICAN-U.S. RELATIONS: "THIS IS A SUBJECT THAT YOU CANNOT DEAL WITH ADEQUATELY ON THAT LEVEL IN AN HOUR AND A HALF OR TWO HOURS." BECAUSE OF THIS, HE WOULD BE WILLING TO MEET AGAIN "TO PUT SOUTH AFRICA'S CASE." ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO OUTRIGHT CONFRONTATION, VORSTER EMPHASIZED THAT "I CANNOT TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYONE" ON SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL POLICY, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT BOW TO OUTSIDE PRESSURE OR DEMANDS."

3. VORSTER SAID SEVERAL SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES EXIST BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE USG ON ISSUES OF BASIC IMPORTANCE. HE SEIZED UPON VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S STATEMENT THAT "FULL PARTICIPATION" IS THE SAME AS ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT US PROPOSALS WERE UNREASONABLE AND COULD NOT BE ACCEPTED EVEN BY OPPOSITION PARTIES. VORSTER CALLED "BASIC DIFFERENCE" BETWEEN US AND SOUTH AFRICA FACT THAT US INSISTED ON COMPARING AMERICAN NEGRO TO SOUTH AFRICAN
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BLACK. HE SAID HE HAD ARGUED STRONGLY AGAINST THIS IN VIENNA, STATING THAT U.S. NEGRO IS COMPLETELY DETRIBALIZED AND FULL-BLOOD AMERICAN IN EVERY SENSE WHILE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS STILL HAD THEIR OWN LANGUAGES, CULTURES, AND NATIONHOODS. VORSTER BELIEVES THAT IF A COMPARISON IS TO BE MADE IT SHOULD BE BETWEEN S.A. BLACKS AND U.S. "RED INDIANS." HE EMPHASIZED STRONGLY THAT SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION IS NOT MULTI-RACIAL BUT MULTI-NATIONAL.

4. STRIKING UP FAMILIAR THEMES OF ANTI-COMMUNIST WILLINGNESS TO "GO IT ALONE," VORSTER LAMENTED U.S. LACK OF CONCERN ABOUT RUSSIAN GAINS IN AFRICA AND SAID QUOTE I MUST SAY THAT IT IS UNFORTUNATELY SO THAT WHERE THERE IS CONCERN IN AFRICA AND BY THE PEOPLE, SUCH AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE IVORY COAST ABOUT RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM AND NAKED COLONIALISM, I AM SORRY TO SAY, AND I HOPE I AM WRONG AND THE U.S. WILL IMMEDIATELY CORRECT ME, I DO NOT NOTE THE SAME CONCERN IN THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AND CERTAIN PROMINENT INDIVIDUALS IN THE U.S. IT IS WE WHO MUST LIVE WITH

THIS--WE AND OTHER AFRICAN STATES. IT MUST BE SAID THAT
IF EVENTUALLY WE ARE CONFRONTED BY A FAIT ACCOMPLI ON
THIS MATTER ABOUT WHICH WE AND OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES
ARE CONCERNED, WE WILL STAND AND FIGHT EVEN IF WE HAVE
TO STAND ALONE UNQUOTE.

5. PRESENTING INTERESTING NEW IDEA, VORSTER SAID NEW
SPIRIT OF "REALISTIC CONSERVATIVE IDEALISM" IS EMERGING
AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. VORSTER WELCOMED THIS
SPIRIT, WHICH HE CLAIMED "IS GOING TO GET STRONGER AND
EVENTUALLY WILL DOMINATE WORLD OPINION." HE REFERRED
SPECIFICALLY TO EXTREMELY WARM RECEPTION GIVEN TO HIM
BY YOUNG PRESIDENTS ORGANIZATION, WHICH HE CALLED "ONE
OF THE PINNACLES OF MY PUBLIC CAREER."

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6. IN REGARD TO SOUTH WEST AFRICA, VORSTER ANNOUNCED
THAT ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE
AUTHORITY WOULD BE INTRODUCED THIS SESSION. PROVISIONS
ON WALVIS BAY WILL BE INCLUDED IN LEGISLATION. HE ALSO

RESTATED HIS COMMITMENT TO GIVE SELF-GOVERNMENT TO DAMARAS AND HEREROS. SPEAKING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CONTACT GROUP, HE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO RELEASE DETAINEES BUT NOT CONVICTED CRIMINALS. HE WOULD DEMAND IN RETURN THAT ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA RELEASE 500-700 SWAPO DETAINEES THEY HOLD. HE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT WHILE HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN ELECTIONS, HE WOULD NOT ACCEPT UN SUPERVISION AND CONTROL. VORSTER SAID SAG HAD ALWAYS BEEN PREPARED TO

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RECEIVE REPRESENTATIVE FROM UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO SEE THAT ELECTIONS ARE JUST AND FAIR. HE EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO MEET AGAIN WITH CONTACT GROUP IN CAPE TOWN AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

7. ON RHODESIA, VORSTER REITERATED THAT WHILE HE WAS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN FINDING SOLUTION, HE WOULD NOT ENGAGE IN BOYCOTTS OR OTHER DIRECT PRESSURE ON SMITH. HE SAID THAT HE INSISTED AT VIENNA TALKS THAT A "DE-ESCALATION OF WAR CLAUSE" BE INCLUDED IN AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BETWEEN U.S. AND S.A. WITHOUT THIS HE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT AGREEMENT.

8. VORSTER STATEMENT WAS NOTABLE FOR WHAT WAS NOT SAID. NO INDICATION WAS GIVEN OF ANY INTENTION TO ALTER INTERNAL POLICY IN ANY WAY. VORSTER DID NOT SERIOUSLY ADDRESS ISSUES OF ENDING DISCRIMINATION OR MOVING TOWARD FULL PARTICIPATION EXCEPT IN STATEMENT THAT ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER PIK BOTHA'S SPEECH, HIS FIRST SINCE ASSUMING A CABINET PORTFOLIO, WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO AN ATTACK ON THE OPPOSITION PARTIES AND CRITICISM OF AMERICAN DOUBLE STANDARDS. BOTHA DID NOT ADDRESS THE BASIC ISSUES OF THE VIENNA TALKS. ALTHOUGH HE SAID QUOTE WE ARE NOT NECESSARILY ON A ROAD TO CONFRONTATION WITH THE U.S., UNQUOTE HE EMPHASIZED THAT IF ANYONE DEMANDS THAT HE DO SOMETHING WHICH WOULD DESTROY HIS OWN NATION (AS HE BELIEVES ONE-MAN-ONE-VOTE WILL), HE WOULD STRIKE BACK. HE SAID QUOTE WE WILL NEITHER BE INTIMIDATED, NOR WILL WE BE PROVOKED. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO EXIST AS A NATION. WE WON'T FORFEIT THIS RIGHT UNQUOTE. BOTHA POINTED OUT THAT S.A. HAS DONE AMERICA NO WRONGS, DOES NOT OWE AMERICA A CENT, AND HAS BEEN THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS ALWAYS FULLY BACKED THE UNITED STATES ON ALL INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS. HE COMMENTED THAT QUOTE MR. CARTER

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DOES NOT HAVE A MONOPOLY ON MORALITY, NOR DOES MR. MONDALE HAVE. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MORAL ASPECTS OF THIS PROBLEM UNQUOTE, AND POINTED OUT THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD A SERIOUS MORAL AND RACIAL PROBLEM IN ITS TREATMENT OF "RED INDIANS." HE ALSO WAVED A COPY OF MCHENRY BOOK ON U.S. PACIFIC MANDATE AND COMMENTED THAT U.S. WAS ASKING MORE OF SOUTH AFRICA THAN U.S. ITSELF WAS PREPARED TO DO.

10. OPPOSITION POINTS OF VIEW WERE PRESENTED BY SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAF (UP), COLIN EGLIN (PRP), AND JOHN WILEY (IUP). GRAAFF, WHO SPOKE PRIOR TO VORSTER, DEVOTED BULK OF SPEECH TO QUESTIONS HE WANTED PRIME MINISTER TO ANSWER AND STATEMENT THAT RELATIONS WITH WEST WOULD BE FAR BETTER UNDER A UNITED PARTY GOVERNMENT. EGLIN ADDRESSED ISSUES AND STRESSED NECESSITY OF INTERNAL CHANGE, BUT MADE LITTLE IMPACT OTHER THAN RAISING IRE OF FONMIN BOTHA. WILEY GAVE HARD-LINE STATEMENT SUPPORTING VORSTER AND CALLING U.S. POSITION "UTTERLY UNREASONABLE."BOWDLER

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